

By: Representative Scott (80th)

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1501

1 AN ACT TO CREATE AND EMPOWER THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON
2 THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

4 SECTION 1. (1) (a) There is created the Mississippi
5 Commission on the Economic Status of Women. The commission shall
6 be composed of eleven (11) members to be appointed as follows:

7 (i) Six (6) members shall be appointed by the
8 Governor; and

9 (ii) Five (5) members shall be appointed by the
10 Lieutenant Governor.

11 (b) The members of the commission must be women and men
12 of recognized ability and achievement who are representative of
13 the ethnic and cultural diversity of the population of this state.
14 Members shall serve for terms of four (4) years each, and a member
15 may not serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms. All
16 vacancies must be filled by the appointing authority for the
17 unexpired term.

18 (c) The commission shall elect a chairman, vice
19 chairman and secretary from among its members for terms of two (2)
20 years each, and any member is eligible for successive elections to
21 office.

22 (d) A quorum for transacting business is a majority of
23 the members of the commission.

24 (e) Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for
25 expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41, and shall receive per
26 diem as provided in Section 25-3-69.

27 (f) The Lieutenant Governor shall notify the Governor
28 after she has made her appointments, and the Governor then shall
29 designate a place and time for the initial, organizational meeting
30 of the commission.

31 (2) The commission has the powers and authority necessary to
32 carry out the duties imposed upon it by this act, including, but
33 not limited to, the following:

34 (a) To employ such administrative, technical and other
35 personnel as may be necessary for the performance of its powers
36 and duties;

37 (b) To hold hearings, make and sign any agreements and
38 do or perform any acts which may be necessary, desirable or proper
39 to carry out the purposes of this act;

40 (c) To cooperate with any state agency, authority,
41 board, commission, department or institution to facilitate its
42 implementation of the powers and duties granted to the commission
43 in this act; and each state agency, authority, board, commission,
44 department or institution shall cooperate with the commission in
45 the performance of its duties;

46 (d) To appoint advisers or advisory committees from
47 time to time when the commission determines that the experience or
48 expertise of such advisers or advisory committees is needed for
49 projects of the commission; and

50 (e) To apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts and
51 services from the state, the government of the United States or
52 any of its agencies, or any other public or private source, for
53 the purpose of defraying clerical and administrative costs as may
54 be necessary in carrying out its duties under this act.

55 (3) (a) The commission shall study, but not be limited to,
56 the following areas:

57 (i) Women's educational and employment problems,
58 needs and opportunities;

59 (ii) The socioeconomic factors that influence the
60 economic status of women;

61 (iii) The development of individual potential;

62 (iv) State laws in regard to the civil, economic
63 and political rights of women, including pensions, tax
64 requirements, property rights, marriage and dissolution of
65 marriage provisions, and similar matters;

66 (v) The effect of social attitudes and pressures
67 and economic considerations in shaping the roles to be assumed by
68 women in the society; and

69 (vi) Any laws, practices or conditions concerning
70 or affecting women which impose special limitations or burdens
71 upon them or upon society, or which limit or tend to limit
72 economic opportunities available to women.

73 (b) The commission shall act as an information center
74 on the economic status of women and women's educational,
75 employment and other related needs.

76 (c) The commission shall recommend, develop, prepare or
77 coordinate materials, projects or other activities and shall give
78 technical and consultative advice to public or private groups or
79 persons concerned with any of the following:

80 (i) Preventing or minimizing problems brought
81 about by the changing roles and responsibilities of women; and

82 (ii) Developing programs to encourage and enable
83 women to be fully contributing members of society.

84 (d) The commission may encourage women's organizations
85 and other groups to institute local self-help activities designed
86 to meet women's educational, employment and related needs.

87 (4) The commission shall make a report to the Legislature at
88 the close of each fiscal year on its activities, findings and
89 recommendations.

90 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
91 and after July 1, 2001.